

Washington, DC – As we get ready to celebrate and thank our mothers, Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) is encouraging residents of the Central Coast to support California's flower growers this Mother's Day, on Sunday, May 8. Over 75 percent of domestically grown flowers are grown in California, accounting for 20 percent of all flowers sold in the U.S. and directly supporting more than 10,000 jobs in the state. Many of these jobs are located on the Central Coast, where local growers produce Roses, Calla Lily, and Gerbera Daisies.

"Flowers are a great way of putting a smile on our mother's faces on Mother's Day," said Congressman Sam Farr. "Buying local flowers will not only ensure you get fresh beautiful flowers to celebrate Mother's Day, but it will also go a long way in supporting our local flower growers."

Although California is one of our country's premier flower producers, the number of local flower farms is shrinking rapidly due to competition from global competitors like Colombia, which receive millions of dollars in subsidies from their government. Last week, Rep. Farr and 40 other members of the California Congressional Delegation sent a letter to President Obama urging him to address the flower trade inequity as his Administration works on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

California growers are also doing their part to remain competitive through innovation. Working with the CCFC, they have offered higher end products produced in an increasingly environmentally sustainable manner. They use the latest in horticultural science to increase yields and develop new varieties for the market, while also meeting California labor and environmental standards that are much higher than their foreign competitors. They are also in the final phase of developing a new transportation, logistics, and shipping system and center that would reduce their shipping costs by 30 to 40 percent.

